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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING GROUP NO. 1632 OFFICIAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Mahalingam et al.

Serial No.: 09/485,421

Group Art Unit: 1632

Filed: October 5, 2000

Examiner: Qian J. Li

Title: FUNCTIONAL FRAGMENTS OF HIV-1 VPR PROTEIN AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

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On June 4, 2004

Daniel M. Scolnick, Ph.D. Reg. No. 52.201

MAIL STOP AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandría, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to the Office Action of April 6, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.